



LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1951

M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

M. S. LESLIE, M.R.San.I. Cert. R.S.A. (Scot.)

Sanitary Inspector

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Leighton Buzzard Urban District.

Inspection of the statistics shows that the birth and death rates for the area compared favourably with the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and it is satisfactory to note that no maternal deaths and only one infant death occurred in the course of the year.

With regard to infectious disease: measles "carried over" from the terminal months of 1950 and coincided in time incidence with a smaller outbreak of whooping cough. The outbreak of dysentery, which was not severe, was the local manifestation of a national epidemic and was not in any way particular to the locality. One case of food poisoning was notified, but, as is so frequently the case with a single notification, no cause was ascertained. The incidence of scarlet fever was sporadic, only seven cases being notified. No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis were notified.

As in previous years, housing remains the chief problem in public health; and with the average age group of the population steadily rising, more provision will be required for the older age groups. This is a long-term problem which will increase in the future, but present policy can help to meet the future needs before the position becomes acute.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the officials and their staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. PLEYDELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

19th September, 1952.

STAFF IN PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—1951

Medical Officer of Health: M. J. Pleydell, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: M. S. Leslie, M.R.San.I., Cert.R.S.A. (Scot.),

Meat Inspector: Capt. W. A. Gibbs, M.R.C.V.S.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2487
Population, Census for 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7030
Registrar-General's estimate of population, November, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9083
Number of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1951) according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2746
Rateable Value at end of December	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£49,716
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£186/16/7

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Urban District is a fairly compact one of 2,487 acres, from which the roads radiate in three main directions to a large farming area, to meet the needs of which, there is an increasing number of persons engaged in the expanding agricultural industries. The town itself is nearly 300 feet above sea level and is pleasantly situated in the centre of the district. The very wide High Street is a feature of the town and, along with Market Square, constitutes the main Banking and Commercial area.

The post-war residential development still clings to the northern part of the town, with the industrial development in the south. There is land in the southern half, however, which has been earmarked for future housing development, which will help to create a more balanced community.

Sand quarrying and a number of associated works engaged in the manufacture of roofing tiles and concrete products, still remain the chief industries of the town. Light industrial establishments engaged in the manufacture of corsets, clothing, stationery and plastics, employ a considerable number of female hands from Leighton Buzzard and surrounding districts.

It would benefit Leighton Buzzard greatly if more diverse industries could be attracted into the town, but the lack of suitable and sufficient labour to man these industries is just not available. Since the war, the unemployment figure in Leighton Buzzard has been extremely low and continues to be so.

Sport and recreation are provided by privately-owned grounds in the southern part of the Town, with facilities for football, cricket, tennis and bowls. Pleasure grounds owned by the Council also provide for sport and recreation and certain areas have been planned for extension. The new Housing Estate will also have a playground area in close proximity to the shopping area.

In view of its height above sea level and its being situated on a sand stratum, Leighton Buzzard can be considered to have a healthy environment.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

					Total	Male	Female
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	176	101	75
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	4	2	2
					—	—	—
				Total	...	180	103
						—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 19.8.

Birth Rate for England and Wales: 15.5.

					Total	Male	Female
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	7	2	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					—	—	—
				Total	...	7	2
						—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births: 37.4.

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales: 0.36.

DEATHS

								Total	Male	Female
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108	60	48

giving a crude death rate of 11.9 per 1,000 of the resident population.

Death Rate for England and Wales: 12.5.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year. The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 0.79.

INFANT MORTALITY

One death occurred amongst all infants under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 5.5 per 1,000 live births. The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 29.6.

CAUSES OF DEATH

								Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	11
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
19	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
20	Other heart disease...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	12
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Ulcer stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
								—	—
	All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	48
								—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1.—LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service is situated in the Town Hall, Luton.

This Service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council, acting for the Ministry of Health, and is free of charge to the Local Authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory undertake the examination of material, *e.g.*, throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood, from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier.

2.—AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulances or sitting case car transport are available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are reimbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The Service also covers the removal to Isolation Hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

AMPTHILL, Claridges Lane. Telephone: Ampthill 2187.

BEDFORD, Newnham Avenue. Telephone: Bedford 4875.

BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane. Telephone: Biggleswade 2295.

DUNSTABLE, High Street, North. Telephone: Dunstable 761.

LINSLADE, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard and Wing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, 10 New Road, Linslade.

Telephone: Leighton Buzzard 3332.

LUTON, 42 Church Street. Telephone: Luton 4600.

RUSHDEN, Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association.

Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvise Road. Telephone: Rushden 403.

3.—DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council are responsible for the provision of this Service, and the Nurses and Midwives in the District are the employees of the County Council.

Direct administration is by the Southern Divisional Health Committee.

The names and addresses of the Nursing and Midwifery Service are as follows:—

Nurse Curry, S.R.N., 8 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard.

Nurse Todd, S.R.N., S.C.M., 21 Oakley Green, Leighton Buzzard.

Nurse Bauman, S.R.N., S.C.M., 8 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard.

HEALTH VISITING

There is one Health Visitor employed by the County Council, who visits the homes of mothers to give advice and help.

4.—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC. Grovebury Road, every Friday, 2—4 p.m.
alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

A Medical Officer and Health Visitor are in attendance, assisted by several voluntary lady workers.

SCHOOL CLINIC. Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

DENTAL CLINIC.

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.—11.30 a.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC. Luton and Dunstable Hospital:—

The Clinic is open daily for both males and females from 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. A Doctor is in attendance on Mondays and Fridays from 6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

CHEST CLINIC. St. Mary's Hospital, Grove Road, Luton:—

Monday Alternate Mondays Patients seen by appointment only by Dr. Leelander, Consultant Physician to the Clinic, and other Mondays reserved for new contacts only.

Tuesday 9.15 a.m.—12 noon. Children.
2 p.m. Female A.P. Refills.
3 p.m. Male A.P. Refills.
6 p.m. Female Clinic.
6.30 p.m. Male Clinic.

Wednesday 9.15 a.m.—1 p.m. New Patients Clinic.
9.15 a.m.—11 a.m. Ante-Natal Clinic.

Thursday 9.15 a.m.—1 p.m. Female Clinic.

Friday 9.15 a.m.—12 noon. Male Clinic.
2 p.m. Female Clinic
3 p.m. Male Clinic.

Saturday 9 a.m.—12 noon. Old Contacts.

5.—HOSPITALS

GENERAL MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND MATERNITY CASES. These are usually admitted into either the Luton and Dunstable, or St. Mary's Hospital, Luton, or the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Erysipelas, and cases of Measles and Whooping Cough, with complications, are treated at Spittlesea Hospital, Luton.

TUBERCULOSIS. There is accommodation for 72 patients at Mogerhanger Sanatorium. Cases from the County are also admitted to other Sanatoria.

On 5th July, when the National Health Service Act, 1946, became operative, these Hospitals passed into the ownership of the Minister of Health, for whom they are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, which Hospital is within the Oxford Hospital Board Region.

6.—HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE

Under the National Health Act, 1946, the provision of this Service is the responsibility of the County Council, with whom your District might advantageously co-operate.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

ADOPTIVE ACTS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1890.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, AMENDMENT ACT, 1907.

Part II adopted. Part VI adopted. Part VII Section 81 adopted only.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925.

The whole adopted, with the exception of Section 22.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Section I adopted.

BYELAWS

BUILDING BYELAWS.

BYELAWS FOR NEW STREETS.

BYELAWS FOR THE HANDLING, WRAPPING & DELIVERY OF FOOD.

SCHOOLS

The Schools in the town are as follows:—

1.—County Secondary Modern Boys.

Average number of pupils on the roll	...	208
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Average attendance	191
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Sanitary accommodation consists of six water closets, one urinal.

2.—County Secondary Modern Girls.

Average number of pupils on the roll	...	186
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Average attendance	169
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Sanitary accommodation consists of ten water closets and one for the staff.

3.—County Primary Boys.

Average number of pupils on the roll	...	218
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Average attendance	202
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Sanitary accommodation consists of five water closets and one urinal.

4.—County Primary Girls.

Average number of pupils on the roll	...	203
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Average attendance	189
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New sanitary accommodation has been installed, consisting of ten water closets for the pupils and one for the staff.

5.—County Primary Infants.

Average number of pupils on the roll	...	274
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Average attendance	232
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The sanitary accommodation consists of two new buildings containing eleven water closets for the girls and ten water closets for the boys respectively.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

No School was closed during the year under review on account of Infectious Disease.

RAINFALL

The Station at which the rainfall is taken is Woburn. The diameter of the funnel of the rain gauge is 8 inches. Height above the ground is 12 inches. Altitude is 291 feet above sea level. Latitude 52 deg. 1 min. N. Longitude 0 deg. 35 min. W.

1951		Monthly Total	No. of Rain Days	RAINFALL IN PREVIOUS YEARS		
		Total		Year	Woburn	England and Wales
January	...	2.57	17			
February	...	3.54	21	1941	25.52	33.8
March	...	3.46	21	1942	19.49	35.9
April	...	3.02	12	1943	19.09	33.4
May	...	2.41	15	1944	22.33	35.3
June	...	0.83	11	1945	20.65	33.27
July	...	1.76	10	1946	28.24	41.6
August	...	3.77	20	1947	18.46	35.23
September	...	2.05	13	1948	28.36	37.62
October	...	1.24	11	1949	20.28	30.9
November	...	4.35	26	1950	30.37	40.2
December	...	1.56	16	1951	30.56	43.7
TOTAL	...	30.56	193			

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Mann, of the Woburn Experimental Farm, for supplying me with the above information.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY

The following information has been kindly provided by the Water Engineer.

The town is supplied with water from three boreholes sunk into the greensand at the Waterworks, Stanbridge Road. The quantity pumped is on the average of 340,000 gallons per day.

No. 1 Borehole is 20 inches in diameter and 211 feet in depth. The water is raised by means of a 5-stage 7in. diameter electrically driven centrifugal pump at the rate of 12,000 gallons per hour.

No. 2 Borehole is 27 inches in diameter and 250 feet in depth. The water is raised by an 8-stage 8in. diameter electrically driven centrifugal pump at the rate of 12,000 gallons per hour.

No. 3 Borehole is 27 inches in diameter and 250 feet in depth. The water is raised by an 8-stage 8in. diameter pump, designed to give 15,000 gallons per hour.

An areater, lime injection plant, sedimentation tank and three rapid gravity filters, draining to a clear water tank and capable of dealing with 25,000 gallons per hour.

The new plant was commenced in July, 1950, and completed in December this year. The water can be pumped by means of a booster pump, of 250,000 gallons per hour capacity, up to the Reservoir.

The water is, at present, chlorinated by a Peterson Chloronome, and contains 0.1 part per million of free chlorine, as supplied to the consumer.

The purity of the supply is controlled by routine sampling from the source and from various points in the supply system.

Monthly samples were taken and sent for bacteriological examination and the reports received proved the supply to be of a high standard of purity.

The following is a typical result of a chemical examination:—

					Parts per 100,000,000
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	...	0.0
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.012
Albuminoid nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	...	...	...	...	0.30
Lead or Copper	...	...	...	...	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca CO ₃)	...	...	...	...	195
Permanent hardness ( " " " )	...	...	...	...	80
Total hardness ( " " " )	...	...	...	...	275

The following are particulars of the number of population supplied from Public Water Mains:—

				No. of Houses	Population
Direct to houses	...	...	...	2,674	9,034
From stand pipes	...	...	...	14	49

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the district is on the separate system. The northern portion of the town is drained by gravitation direct to the Sewage Disposal Works, and the southern portion of the town, which is divided into four areas, drains to four ejector stations situated in Hockliffe Road, South Street, Lake Street and Bridge Street, where the sewage is raised by means of compressed air through 5in. diameter cast iron rising mains to the high level sewers. The compressed air is generated at the Waterworks, Stanbridge Road, and is conveyed by means of cast iron pipes to the four ejector stations.

The scheme described in the report for 1948 for connecting up the three ejector stations in Hockliffe Road, South Street and Lake Street, and for the construction of a pumping station near Chain Bridge, including the provision of new ejectors and a compressor station in Bridge Street, was approved by the

Ministry of Health in 1949 and commencement was made on the scheme during the latter part of the year.

The completion of this scheme will eliminate the risk of overflowing sewage in certain parts of the low-lying areas which has occurred when the ejectors have failed to cope with abnormal flows.

The outfall sewer at the Sewage Disposal Works discharges into two screening chambers with manually operated screens.

The sewage is treated by means of two continuous flow settling tanks, three 74 feet diameter clinker filters, two humus tanks and a chlorinating plant at the entrance to the Works.

The sludge from the settling tanks is drained into a sump and raised through a rising main by means of a centrifugal pump to shallow drying beds at the extreme end of the Works.

A Storm water tank is provided for dealing with over three times the dry weather flow, which has a weir outlet and overflow to the irrigation area.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

All drains are examined before being covered in and smoke or water tests are carried out where applicable.

SEPTIC TANKS AND CESSPOOLS

Since the emptying of septic tanks and cesspools was undertaken on request by the Council in 1946, there has been a substantial increase in the number of emptyings. In 1948, only thirty-five emptyings took place, whereas for the year under review, there were eighty-nine. The service is carried out by arrangement with the Luton Rural District Council. The Council empty only on the request of the owner or occupier, and two free emptyings are allowed per year. The increase has been due to more people taking advantage of the service and also to an increase in the number of new houses, which, I am sorry to say, have had to be built in unsewered areas. This is due to the present limited sewerage system and the scarcity of available building land. It is indeed unfortunate that we have to tolerate this form of sewage disposal—one of the few remaining evils of the past ages.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The rivers and streams in the urban area are the Ousel and Clipstone Brook. They are subject to serious flooding during heavy storms and the Council have energetically pursued the Great Ouse Catchment Board to prepare a scheme to alleviate the trouble. Both streams have been periodically inspected and sampled. The River Ousel adjoins the sewage works and receives the outfall effluent.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is a swimming bath situated in the grounds of the Cedars School for the use of the pupils and members of the staff, which is provided with a chlorinating plant. Pupils from the Secondary Modern Schools are also allowed to use the bath.

The Spinney Pool in Billington Road, which for many years was used by the public for bathing and swimming, has now been abandoned for this purpose, due to tipping operations on adjoining land by British Railways.

PETROLEUM ACTS, 1871—1928

CELLULOSE SOLUTIONS REGULATIONS, 1934

Number of Licences issued to store petroleum	...	37
Total storage capacity	... ..	29,200 gallons
Fees collected	... ..	£22/10/0

Routine visits have been carried out to all storage premises. There were no new tanks installed during the year, but two were emptied and filled with water to render them free from danger. All new underground tanks are subjected to a pressure of 10 lbs. per square inch before approval, and chambers of either 9in. brickwork or reinforced concrete are insisted upon and a minimum of 9in. sand surrounding the tank.

DISINFECTION

Premises are disinfected after the removal or recovery of infectious cases, and disinfectant fluid is supplied to the public at the Council's West Street Depot, free of cost.

The number of disinfections carried out during the year was seven.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Careful investigations are still carried out with a view to the eradication of the bed bug. Council houses are inspected and tenants are encouraged to report any signs of infestation or re-infestation of their houses. All such cases which come to our notice, whether in Council houses or private houses, are promptly dealt with by fumigation or spraying.

Families who have been allocated Council houses are interviewed on the above subject, and with their co-operation and consent, their homes are inspected and, when necessary, their furniture and bedding are fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide in a Furniture Van hired from a local contractor. The work is carried out by a trained operator who retains the keys of the new houses until he has tested and certified the furniture and bedding free from danger. No fumigations of this type were required to be carried out.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Most of the occupiers of these dwellings in the Urban District are people who are unable to obtain normal residence in the town, but there are also those who, owing to the nature of their work, frequently have to move from one district to another. Though having every sympathy with these dwellers, the Council ensure complete control through the medium of the Public Health Act and Town Planning Law.

Applications dealt with during the year numbered 15 and all the licences which were granted were limited to a period not exceeding 12 months.

	Granted	Refused
1. Licences to allow land to be used as a site for moveable dwellings	Nil	Nil
2. Licences to erect, station or use moveable dwellings	11	4

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

PREMISES	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	15	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	65	31	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises) ...	3	7	1	—
TOTAL	81	53	1	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :				
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	3	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT OUT-WORK (Sections 110 and 111).—There were no persons so employed

The Local Authority are responsible under the above Act for enforcing the provisions contained in Section 38, which relate to sanitary arrangements in shops and arrangements for providing suitable and sufficient means of ventilation and heating.

During the year, inspections were carried out to 51 shop premises and the necessary works carried out to comply with the provisions of the Act.

HOUSING

During the year, it was still found necessary to keep in use condemned cottages under the Defence (General) Regulations. These condemned properties present a depressing appearance and detract from the amenities of the areas in which they stand. The time is fast approaching for these areas to be cleared to make way for modern buildings or other development. The re-housing of the persons concerned, of course, presents us with numerous and complicated problems, but they are problems which will be with us at any time and must not prevent the Local Authority from tackling them now. The urgency in tackling the problem now is because the 17 houses, on which Demolition Orders have been made, by no means exhausts the list of those which would, under normal circumstances, have been dealt with. There are numerous houses which would form areas suitable for clearance now. The Housing Committee are fully aware of the need for houses to replace these, and I am of the opinion that the task of solving the problem should be started by allocating a percentage of new houses—or by a system of transference—a percentage of the older Council houses to those persons who at the present time are having to live in houses which are unfit for human habitation. By so doing, many old buildings would be removed by this one action; many people would be re-housed by this one action, and the first steps would be taken to re-make the town anew.

The development of the Council's Clarence Road Housing Estate has maintained steady progress during the year, with plans on the board for many more houses to be built on this very fine estate.

The following is the number and type of pre-war and post-war houses built by the Council up to the end of 1951:—

			Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom	Flats	Total
Pre-war Council Houses	... ..		4	156	10	—	170
Post-war Council Houses:							
1. Temporary Bungalows							
(Tarran type)	... ..		31	—	—	—	31
2. Garden Hedge Estate							
(Traditional Houses)	... ..		—	77	5	16	98
3. Clarence Road Estate:							
(a) Aluminium Bungalows			100	—	—	—	100
(b) Traditional Houses	... ..		12	129	8	16	161
(c) Aged Persons' Bungalows			8	—	—	—	8
			—	—	—	—	—
			155	362	23	32	568
			—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	211
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	281
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	11
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	27
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	3
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	8

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	Nil
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

A.	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.						
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	Nil
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:					
		(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
		(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.						
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	21
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:					
		(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	18
		(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
C.	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.						
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	Nil
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.						
	1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil	
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Total number of traditional new houses and flats erected and completed in 1951 classified as follows:—

By the Local Authority 40	
By private enterprise 11	

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

HOUSING

Under Housing Acts 57	
Under Public Health Acts 372	
Number of notices served, informal 98	
Number of notices served, statutory 21	

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Infectious disease 16	
Premises disinfected 11	
Infestations dealt with 6	
Drains tested 48	
Moveable Dwellings 25	
Miscellaneous 57	

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses 22	
Grocers and Fruit Shops 18	
Fish Shops 8	
Ice Cream 60	
Hotel Kitchens 2	
Registered Premises 35	
Cafes and Snack Bars 24	
Dairies 31	

SUMMARY OF WORKS CARRIED OUT

Roofs repaired 25	
Guttering and rainwater pipes cleaned out or repaired 35	
Dirty houses cleansed and distempered 2	
Walls and ceilings repaired 20	
Floors repaired 9	
New sinks provided 4	
External wall repaired 12	
Dampness remedied 14	
Water supplies improved Nil	
Water closets repaired 14	
Sanitary dustbins provided 14	
Additional water closets provided Nil	
Defective drainage repaired 11	
Defective yard paving improved 8	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are 20 Milk Distributors and six Dairy premises registered in the Urban District. Inspection throughout the year has shown that they are continually maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Twelve retail detailers' licences and one supplementary licence were granted to distributors under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, six of which were for Tuberculin Tested Milk and seven for Pasteurised Milk.

The majority of the retail distributors obtain their supplies in bulk and in bottles from Pasteurising Establishments in other districts, and there is only a small proportion of raw milk being retailed to the public.

Thirty-three samples of milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, for testing, and according to the reports received, all of the samples complied with the required standards.

Eight samples of milk sent for biological examination showed that, on post-mortem examination, there was no infection with Tuberculosis.

ICE CREAM

Five premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream, which has increased the number of registered premises to 28.

There is only one establishment registered for the manufacture of ice cream, and this is provided with the most modern plant and equipment for producing ice cream of a high standard of bacteriological purity and the results obtained have been very satisfactory.

I am pleased to state that practically the whole of the ice cream which is produced in the town or is brought in by wholesale dealers, is sold in pre-packed form.

Thirty-one samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, for bacteriological examination and, according to the present system of grading, 62% were in Grade 1, 94% in Grades 1 and 2, 6% in Grade 3 and none in Grade 4. This corresponds very favourably indeed with the report issued by the Public Health Laboratory Service, which stated that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any given sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six monthly period, 50% of a Vendor's sample should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

FOOD PREMISES

Sixteen premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. These premises are kept under strict supervision and I am able to report that they are maintained in a cleanly condition.

Restaurants, shops and stalls where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale, are regularly inspected and steps taken to ensure that the premises and utensils are maintained in a cleanly condition, and that the food is prepared and handled under hygienic conditions.

The following articles of food from various shop premises were examined, found to be unsound, surrendered by the Vendors and destroyed :—

1 lb. 14 ozs Fish	5 lbs. 4 ozs. tinned Veal & Ham Loaf
55 lbs. 7 ozs. Meat & Vegetables	452 lbs. tinned Ham
121 lbs. 4 ozs. Fruit	13 lbs. 14 ozs. Tomatoes
6 lbs. Jam	39 lbs. Pork Pies
29 tins Milk	35 Rabbits (imported)
7 lbs. 8 ozs. Bacon	4 stones Fish
4 lbs. 8 ozs. Ham	

SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The slaughterhouse, which is situated in the centre of the town, was originally a private one, but was taken over by the Ministry of Food under the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order, 1940. Meat inspection is carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon who is employed part-time by the Local Authority.

Representations have been made to the Ministry of Food to have a new slaughterhouse built in the district, as the present one is totally inadequate to deal properly with the present rate of slaughtering. The building is also very badly sited, with houses even abutting on the slaughterhouse yard, a state of affairs which should not be tolerated. It is to be hoped also that when the joint plan for Leighton Buzzard and Linslade has been completed, that the respective Planning Authorities have acted upon the representations made to them and designated an area in either one or the other of the districts as a suitable site for a new slaughterhouse.

The following is the number of carcasses inspected and condemned during 1951:—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and inspected ...	1212	271	2119	417	4019
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses condemned	2	3	9	3	17
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	250	11	71	61	393
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	20.79%	5.16 %	3.77 %	15.34 %	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcasses condemned	6	—	—	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	95	1	—	1	97
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.33 %	0.36 %	—	0.23 %	513

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each
—	—	—	—	—

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ an experienced Rodent Operator, whose services are also shared by the Linslade Urban District Council, in accordance with the arrangements agreed to by the Ministry of Food.

I wish to emphasise here that by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which came into force on the 31st March, 1950, that the obligation of notifying the Local Authority of the presence of rats and mice falls upon the occupier of land.

Strict supervision has been maintained over the district and the following is an extract of the figures included in the Annual Report to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the period ending 31st August, 1951:—

	No. inspected
Dwelling Houses	134
Local Authority Property	6
Agricultural Property	10
Business and Industrial Property	12
Total	158

A test treatment to the Local Authority's sewers was carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Ministry, and I am pleased to report that the 10% tested were found to be free from infestation.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring treatment are sent to Spittlesea Hospital, Luton. As mentioned earlier in this Report, this Hospital is now the property of the Minister of Health and is administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Group Management Committee.

SONNE DYSENTERY

Twenty-one cases of sonne dysentery were notified throughout the year. Children were the principle sufferers and the infection occurred in the early months of the year. Routine precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the infection.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1951

DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified.												Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 upwards	
Sonné Dysentry	21	...	...	1	4	3	8	2	...	1	1	1	...	...
Food Poisoning	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	7	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	1	1	...	...	3	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	25	3	...	...	1	1	8	1	...	4	2	4	1	1
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Measles	126	6	9	14	13	218	50	4	1	7	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	50	6	5	11	10	7	9	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Acute Polio-Myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

MEASLES

There was an epidemic of measles during the year, and over 100 cases were notified during the first quarter. The main incidence fell on children over four years of age—a favourable factor, since complications are more liable to occur in the early age groups.

WHOOPING COUGH

The high incidence of this infection carried over from the last quarter of the previous year, and four-fifths of the cases occurred in the first quarter of the year. It is not uncommon for measles and whooping cough to occur at the same time, as in this instance.

PNEUMONIA

There were twenty-five cases of pneumonia during the year. No particular age group was principally affected.

SCARLET FEVER

Seven sporadic cases occurred during the year.

FOOD POISONING

One case of food poisoning was notified, but the cause was not ascertained.

The one non-pulmonary tuberculosis death occurred in a person who had not previously been notified as suffering from this infection.

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING 1951

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
5—10	...	...	1*	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
25—35	...	...	3 + 1*	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
35—45	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	9 + 2*	3	4	3	...	1	...	1	...

* Transferred from Another District

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was required to be taken under these Acts.

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

With the coming into force of the National Service Act, 1946, on 5th July, 1949, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or Schools within the County.

Number of children at 31st December, 1951, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (*i.e.*, at any time since 1st January, 1935):—

		Total Under						
Age at 31/12/51	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15
(<i>i.e.</i> , born in year)	22	134	154	115	94	497	352	1368

Estimated mid-year Child Population, 1951:

Under 5, 809; 5—14, 1,192; total, 2,001.

These figures indicate that 64.1 per cent. of the child population under 5 years of age has been immunised against diphtheria, as compared with 52.7 per cent. at the end of 1950. 71.2 per cent. of the child population of 5—14 years has been immunised against diphtheria, as compared with 77.7 per cent. at the end of the previous year; while 68.3 per cent. of the children under 15 years of age has been protected against diphtheria by immunisation, as compared with 67.6 per cent. at the end of 1950.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES

By arrangement with the County Council, infected persons are treated at the Health Centre, Dunstable.

During the year under review no persons have received treatment.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was required under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1951 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each Year	TOTAL BIRTHS				TOTAL DEATHS : REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		DEATHS TRANSFERABLE		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Live Births		Still Births		Number	Rate per 1000 Registered Population	No. of Non- Residents registered in the District	No. of Residents not registered in the District	Under one year of age		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate per 1000 Resident Population	No.	Rate per 1000 Resident Population					Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate per 1000 Resident Population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1942	7848	117	14.90	1	0.12	63	8.06	4	46	8	68.3	105	13.39
1943	7600	114	15.00	0	0.00	53	6.99	3	40	0	0.00	90	11.84
1944	7601	126	16.57	4	0.52	66	8.68	8	45	9	71.4	103	13.55
1945	7550	163	21.59	6	0.78	63	8.34	0	32	5	30.6	95	12.59
1946	7572	168	22.72	4	0.53	70	9.24	2	35	4	23.8	103	13.73
1947	7730	166	21.50	2	0.25	58	7.50	3	23	4	24.1	78	10.10
1948	8435	165	19.40	4	0.47	71	8.41	4	33	3	18.2	100	11.9
1949	8710	188	21.60	3	0.34	67	7.69	2	44	6	31.3	110	12.6
1950	9105	155	17.00	4	0.44	70	7.69	5	48	5	31.4	113	12.4
1951	9083	180	19.8	7	0.77	69	7.59	5	44	1	5.3	108	11.9

Rush & Warwick
Printers
Leighton Buzzard